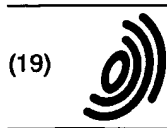


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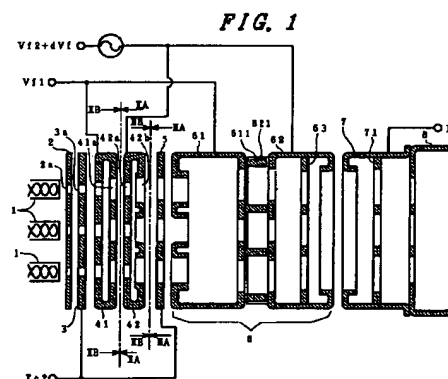
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(54) Color cathode ray tube having electrostatic quadruple lenses

(57) A color cathode ray tube includes third, fourth and fifth electrodes (4, 5, 6) and an anode (7) in its electron beam focusing section. A first-type electrostatic quadrupole lens is formed between first and second members of the fifth electrode for focusing electron beams in one of horizontally and vertically and diffusing the electron beams in the other of horizontally and vertically increasing with decreasing beam deflection, and a second-type electrostatic quadrupole lens is formed between first and second members of the third electrode for focusing the electron beams in the other of horizontally and vertically and diffusing the electron beams in the one of horizontally and vertically increasing with the decreasing beam deflection, and an electron lens is formed between the fourth electrode and a first aperture formed in a first surface of the second member of the third electrode adjacent to the fourth electrode, the first surface being on a side of the second member of the third electrode opposite from the fourth electrode, for diffusing the electron beams horizontally and focusing the electron beams vertically increasing with the decreasing beam deflection.



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Description

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

5 [0001] The present invention relates to a cathode ray tube, and in particular to a color cathode ray tube having an electron gun employing a multistage focus lens for focusing a plurality of electron beams on a phosphor screen.

[0002] Shadow mask type color cathode ray tubes are prevalingly used as TV picture tubes and monitor tubes for information terminals. The shadow mask type color cathode ray tubes house an electron gun for emitting a plurality (usually three) of electron beams at one end of an evacuated envelope, a phosphor screen formed of phosphors coated on an inner surface of the evacuated envelope at the other end thereof for emitting light of a plurality (usually three) of colors, and a shadow mask which serves as a color selection electrode and is closely spaced from the phosphor screen. The electron beams emitted from the electron gun are deflected to scan the phosphor screen two-dimensionally by magnetic fields generated by a deflection yoke mounted externally of the evacuated envelope and to display a desired image on the phosphor screen.

15 [0003] FIG. 17 shows a cross-sectional view for explaining an example of the constitution of the shadow mask type color cathode ray tube, and in Fig. 17, reference numeral 1 denotes a panel portion forming a viewing screen, 2 denotes a neck portion for housing an electron gun, 3 denotes a funnel portion for connecting the panel portion and the neck portion, 4 denotes a phosphor screen, 5 denotes a shadow mask serving as a color selection electrode, 6 denotes a mask frame for supporting the shadow mask 5, 7 denotes a magnetic shield for shielding extraneous magnetic fields such as the earth's magnetic field, 8 denotes a mask suspension mechanism, 9 denotes an in-line type electron gun, 10 denotes a deflection yoke, 11 denotes an internal conductive coating, 12 denote stem pins, and 13 denotes a getter.

[0004] In the case of the color cathode ray tube, the evacuated envelope is comprised of the panel portion 1, the neck portion 2 and the funnel portion 3, and electron beams B (one center electron beam and two side electron beams) emitted from the electron gun 9 housed in the neck portion 2 scan the phosphor screen 4 in two dimensions by the horizontal and vertical direction magnetic fields produced by the deflection yoke 10.

25 [0005] The deflection yoke 10 is of a self-converging type which provides a pin cushion-like horizontal deflection magnetic field and a barrel-like vertical deflection magnetic field to converge a plurality of electron beams over the entire phosphor screen.

[0006] The electron beams B are modulated in amount by modulating signals such as video signals supplied via the stem pins 12, are color-selected by the shadow mask 5 disposed immediately in front of the phosphor screen 4, and impinge upon the phosphors of the corresponding colors to reproduce a desired image.

[0007] The cathode ray tubes of this kind are provided with a multistage focus lens in the electron gun and a dynamic focusing system is widely adopted where at least one of the electrodes constituting the multistage focus lens is supplied with a voltage varying dynamically, to obtain sufficiently small electron beam spots over the entire phosphor screen.

35 [0008] FIG. 18 is a schematic cross-sectional view of an example of an electrode structure of an electron gun employed in a color cathode ray tube, taken perpendicular to the in-line direction of three in-line electron beams.

[0009] In FIG. 18, reference numeral 1 denote three cathodes each having a heater incorporated therein, and electron beam generating means comprises the cathodes 1, a first electrode 2 serving as a control electrode and a second electrode 3 serving as an accelerating electrode and the electron beam generating means forms electrons generated by the three cathodes 1 into three respective electron beams. Electron beam focusing means comprises a third electrode 4, a fourth electrode 5, a fifth electrode 6 and an anode 7, and the electron beam focusing means accelerates the three electron beams and focuses them on the phosphor screen 4. Reference numeral 8 denotes a shield cup and E_b is an anode voltage. The fifth electrode 6 is divided into a first member 61 and a second member 62.

45 [0010] The third electrode 4, the fourth electrode 5 and the first member 61 of the fifth electrode 6 form a first-stage focusing lens, and the second member 62 of the fifth electrode 6 and the anode 7 form a second-stage focusing lens.

[0011] The electrons emitted from the cathodes 1 heated by the heaters are accelerated toward the first electrode 2 serving as an electron beam control electrode by an accelerating potential of the second electrode 3 to form three electron beams. After passing through the electron beam apertures in the second electrode 3 and the third electrode 4, the three electron beams are slightly focused by the first-stage focusing lens formed by the third electrode 4, the fourth electrode 5 and the first member 61 of the fifth electrode 6.

[0012] After passing through the first-stage focusing lens, the electron beams enter the second-stage focusing lens formed by the second member 62 of the fifth electrode 6 and the anode 7 and serving as a main lens.

55 [0013] In FIG. 7, reference numeral 63 denotes a correction plate electrode disposed within the second member 62 of the fifth electrode 6 and 71 is a correction plate electrode disposed within the anode 7.

[0014] The three respective electron beams are focused while they pass through the second-stage focusing lens, then are subjected to color selection by the shadow mask 5, and then are focused on phosphor elements of an intended color of the phosphor screen 4 to form an electron beam spot.

[0015] A first focusing voltage V_{f1} of a fixed voltage is applied to the third electrode 4 and the first member 61 of the fifth electrode 6, and a second focusing voltage ($V_{f2} + dV_f$) of a fixed voltage V_{f2} superposed with a dynamic voltage dV_f varying in synchronism with deflection angle of the electron beams scanning the phosphor screen 4 is applied to the second member 62 of the fifth electrode 6. With this structure, the curvature of the image field is corrected by varying the strength of the main lens according to the deflection angle of the electron beams.

[0016] In addition to the above structure, an electrostatic quadrupole lens is formed by four vertical plates 611 attached to the end of the first member 61 of the fifth electrode 6 on the second member 62 side thereof and two horizontal plates 621 attached to the end of the second member 62 of the fifth electrode 6 on the first member 61 side thereof. With the electrostatic quadrupole lens being configured so as to focus the electron beams horizontally and so as to diffuse the electron beams vertically according to increasing deflection angles of the electron beams, the electrostatic quadrupole lens corrects astigmatic deflection defocusing induced by the deflection yoke which diffuses the electron beams horizontally and focuses the electron beams vertically according to the increasing deflection angles of the electron beams. With this structure, a good focus is obtained over the entire viewing screen.

[0017] But electron guns for use in color cathode ray tubes such as TV picture tubes and display monitor tubes need to control the cross-sectional shape of the electron beams properly according to the amount of electron beam deflection so as to provide a good focus characteristic and high resolution over the entire viewing screen.

[0018] With the above electron gun, the cross-sectional shape of the electron beams entering the main lens is elongated vertically according to the increasing deflection angle of the electron beams by the astigmatism-correcting electrostatic quadrupole lens, consequently the vertical diameter of the cross section of the electron beams is influenced greatly by the deflection defocusing which compresses the vertical diameter of the cross section of the electron beams and expands the horizontal diameter of the cross section to elongate the cross section horizontally, and as a result the electron beam spots are elongated horizontally at the periphery of the viewing screen and it was difficult to obtain good and uniform focus over the entire viewing screen.

[0019] To eliminate the above problem, in addition to the above electrostatic quadrupole lens, another electrostatic quadrupole lens serving as an electron beam shaping lens is formed by dividing the fifth electrode again or by dividing the third electrode again and is disposed in a position remoter from the anode than the above electrostatic quadrupole lens is.

[0020] The additional electrostatic quadrupole lens diffuses the electron beams in the direction in which the anode-side electrostatic quadrupole lens focuses the electron beams and focuses the electron beams in the direction in which the anode-side electrostatic quadrupole lens diffuses the electron beams such that the additional electrostatic quadrupole lens has opposite effects on the electron beams from the anode-side electrostatic quadrupole lens.

[0021] With this structure, the electrostatic quadrupole lens for shaping the electron beams can be configured so as to elongate the cross section more horizontally according to the increase in the electron beam deflection and the astigmatism-correcting electrostatic quadrupole lens can shape the cross-sectional shape of the electron beams easily, and consequently good and uniform focus can be obtained over the entire viewing screen.

[0022] But there is a problem in that sufficient shaping action of elongating the cross section of the electron beams horizontally cannot be obtained even when the electron beam-shaping electrostatic quadrupole lens is formed within the third electrode remotest from the anode so as to shape the electron beams most effectively, and consequently good and uniform focus cannot be obtained over the entire viewing screen.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0023] It is an object of the present invention to provide a high resolution color cathode ray tube having eliminated the problems of the prior art and optimized the shape of the electron beam spots over the entire viewing screen.

[0024] To accomplish the above objects, in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention, there is provided a color cathode ray tube comprising an evacuated envelope comprising a panel portion, a neck portion and a funnel portion for connecting said panel portion and said neck portion, a phosphor screen formed on an inner surface of said panel portion, an in-line type electron gun housed in said neck portion, and an electron beam deflection yoke mounted around said neck portion, said in-line type electron gun comprising an electron beam generating section having a plurality of in-line cathodes, a first electrode serving as an electron beam control electrode and a second electrode serving as an accelerating electrode arranged in the order named for projecting a plurality of electron beams arranged approximately in parallel with each other in a horizontal plane toward said phosphor screen, an electron beam focusing section comprising a third electrode, a fourth electrode, a fifth electrode and an anode arranged in the order named for focusing said plurality of electron beams on said phosphor screen, said third electrode comprising a first group of members and a second group of members of said third electrode, said fifth electrode comprising a first group of members and a second group of members of said fifth electrode, said first group of members of said third electrode and said first group of members of said fifth electrode being supplied with a first focus voltage of a fixed value, and said second group of members of said third electrode and said second group of members of said fifth electrode being supplied with a sec-

ond focus voltage comprised of a fixed voltage and a dynamic voltage varying with deflection of said plurality of electron beams, wherein at least one first-type electrostatic quadrupole lens is formed between said first and second groups of members of said fifth electrode for increasingly focusing said plurality of electron beams in one of horizontal and vertical directions and for increasingly diffusing said plurality of electron beams in another of the horizontal and vertical directions with an increase in a focus voltage difference between said first focus voltage and said second focus voltage, at least one second-type electrostatic quadrupole lens is formed between said first and second groups of members of said third electrode for increasingly focusing said plurality of electron beams with the increase in the focus voltage difference in a direction perpendicular to said one of the horizontal and vertical directions in which one disposed nearest said anode, of said at least one first-type electrostatic quadrupole lens increasingly focuses said plurality of electron beams with the increase in the focus voltage difference, and for increasingly diffusing said plurality of electron beams with the increase in the focus voltage difference in a direction perpendicular to said another of the horizontal and vertical directions in which said one disposed nearest said anode, of said at least one first-type electrostatic quadrupole lens increasingly diffuses said plurality of electron beams with the increase in the focus voltage difference, and an electron lens is formed between said fourth electrode and a first aperture formed in a first surface of one member of said second group of said third electrode adjacent to said fourth electrode and forming said at least one second-type electrostatic quadrupole lens in combination with one member of said first group of said third electrode, said first surface of said one member of said second group of said third electrode being on a side of said one member of said second group of said third electrode opposite from said fourth electrode, said electron lens being configured so as to increasingly diffuse said plurality of electron beams in the horizontal direction with an increase in a voltage difference between said second focus voltage and a voltage applied to said fourth electrode and to increasingly focus said plurality of electron beams in the vertical direction with the increase in the voltage difference between said second focus voltage and the voltage applied to said fourth electrode.

[0025] To accomplish the above objects, in accordance with another embodiment of the present invention, there is provided a color cathode ray tube comprising an evacuated envelope comprising a panel portion, a neck portion and a funnel portion for connecting said panel portion and said neck portion, a phosphor screen toned on an inner surface of said panel portion, an in-line type electron gun housed in said neck portion, and an electron beam deflection yoke mounted around said neck portion, said in-line type electron gun comprising an electron beam generating section having three in-line cathodes, an electron beam control electrode and an accelerating electrode arranged in the order named for projecting three electron beams arranged approximately in parallel with each other in a horizontal plane toward said phosphor screen, an electron beam focusing section comprising a third electrode, a fourth electrode, a fifth electrode and an anode arranged in the order named for focusing the three electron beams on said phosphor screen, said third electrode comprising a first group of members and a second group of members of said third electrode, said fifth electrode comprising a first group of members and a second group of members of said fifth electrode, one member of said second group of members of said fifth electrode being disposed adjacently to said anode, said first group of members of said third electrode and said first group of members of said fifth electrode being supplied with a first focus voltage of a fixed value, and said second group of members of said third electrode and said second group of members of said fifth electrode being supplied with a second focus voltage comprised of a fixed voltage and a dynamic voltage varying with deflection of the three electron beams, wherein at least one first-type electrostatic quadrupole lens is formed between said first and second groups of members of said fifth electrode for increasingly focusing the three electron beams in one of horizontal and vertical directions and for increasingly diffusing the three electron beams in another of the horizontal and vertical directions with an increase in a focus voltage difference between said first focus voltage and said second focus voltage, at least one second-type electrostatic quadrupole lens is formed between said first and second groups of members of said third electrode for increasingly focusing the three electron beams with the increase in the focus voltage difference in a direction perpendicular to said one of the horizontal and vertical directions in which one disposed nearest said anode, of said at least one first-type electrostatic quadrupole lens increasingly focuses the three electron beams with the increase in the focus voltage difference, and for increasingly diffusing the three electron beams with the increase in the focus voltage difference in a direction perpendicular to said another of the horizontal and vertical directions in which said one disposed nearest said anode, of said at least one first-type electrostatic quadrupole lens increasingly diffuses the three electron beams with the increase in the focus voltage difference, and an electron lens is formed between said fourth electrode and an aperture formed in one member of said second group of said third electrode adjacent to said fourth electrode and forming said at least one second-type electrostatic quadrupole lens in combination with one member of said first group of said third electrode, said one member of said second group of said third electrode being a plate-like electrode and said aperture being a vertically elongated aperture, said electron lens being configured so as to increasingly diffuse the three electron beams in the horizontal direction with an increase in a voltage difference between said second focus voltage and a voltage applied to said fourth electrode and to increasingly focus the three electron beams in the vertical direction with the increase in the voltage difference between said second focus voltage and the voltage applied to said fourth electrode.

[0026] The invention is not limited to particular details of the above-explained construction and the below-explained

embodiments. Various changes and modifications can be made to the above-explained structures and the below-explained embodiments without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as defined in the appended claims.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0027] In the accompanying drawings, in which like reference numerals designate similar components throughout the figures, and in which:

FIG. 1 is a schematic cross-sectional view of an electron gun for explaining a color cathode ray tube in accordance with a first embodiment of the present invention;

FIGS. 2A and 2B are cross-sectional views of the electron gun taken at lines IIA-IIA and IIB-IIB of FIG. 1, respectively;

FIGS. 3A and 3B are cross-sectional views of the electron gun taken at lines IIIA-IIIA and IIIB-IIIB of FIG. 1, respectively;

FIG. 4 is a schematic enlarged cross-sectional view of a portion of the electron gun of FIG. 1;

FIG. 5 is a graph showing the relationship between the electron beam astigmatism and the ratio L/D where D is a diameter of an electron beam aperture in the surface of the second member of the fourth electrode on the fourth-electrode side thereof and L is an axial distance measured from the surface of the second member on the fourth-electrode side thereof to the electron beam aperture in the surface of the second member on the first-member side thereof as indicated in FIG. 4;

FIG. 6A is a plan view of a surface of a modification of the second member of the third electrode on the first member side thereof, and FIG. 6B is a plan view of the surface viewed through an aperture in a surface of the second member on the fourth electrode side thereof;

FIG. 7 is a schematic cross-sectional view of an electron gun for explaining a color cathode ray tube in accordance with a second embodiment of the present invention;

FIGS. 8A and 8B are cross-sectional views of the electron gun taken at lines VIIIA-VIIIA and VIIB-VIIB of FIG. 7, respectively, and FIG. 8C is a plan view of a modification of the second member of third electrode in FIG. 7;

FIG. 9 is a schematic cross-sectional view of an electron gun for explaining a color cathode ray tube in accordance with a third embodiment of a color cathode ray tube according to the present invention;

FIG. 10 is an illustration of waveforms of focus voltages;

FIGS. 11A to 11C are illustrations of one type of an electrostatic quadrupole lens, FIG. 11A being a cross-sectional view of the electrostatic quadrupole lens of FIG. 11B taken along line 110A-110A, FIG. 11B being a cross-sectional view of the electrostatic quadrupole lens of FIG. 11A taken along line 110B-110B, and FIG. 11C being a cross-sectional view of the electrostatic quadrupole lens of FIG. 11A taken along line 110C-110C;

FIGS. 12A to 12C are illustrations of another type of an electrostatic quadrupole lens, FIG. 12A being a cross-sectional view of the electrostatic quadrupole lens of FIG. 12B taken along line 120A-120A, FIG. 12B being a cross-sectional view of the electrostatic quadrupole lens of FIG. 12A taken along line 120B-120B, and FIG. 12C being a cross-sectional view of the electrostatic quadrupole lens of FIG. 12B taken along line 120C-120C;

FIGS. 13A to 13C are illustrations of another type of an electrostatic quadrupole lens, FIG. 13A being a cross-sectional view of the electrostatic quadrupole lens of FIG. 13B taken along line 130A-130A, FIG. 13B being a cross-sectional view of the electrostatic quadrupole lens of FIG. 13A taken along line 130B-130B, and FIG. 13C being a cross-sectional view of the electrostatic quadrupole lens of FIG. 13B taken along line 130C-130C;

FIGS. 14A to 14C are illustrations of another type of an electrostatic quadrupole lens, FIG. 14A being a cross-sectional view of the electrostatic quadrupole lens of FIG. 14B taken along line 140A-140A, FIG. 14B being a cross-sectional view of the electrostatic quadrupole lens of FIG. 14A taken along line 140B-140B, and FIG. 14C being a cross-sectional view of the electrostatic quadrupole lens of FIG. 14A taken along line 140C-140C;

FIGS. 15A to 15D are illustrations of another type of an electrostatic quadrupole lens, FIG. 15A being a cross-sectional view of the electrostatic quadrupole lens of FIG. 15C taken along line 150A-150A, FIG. 15B being a cross-sectional view of the electrostatic quadrupole lens of FIG. 15A taken along line 150B-150B, FIG. 15C being a cross-sectional view of the electrostatic quadrupole lens of FIG. 15A taken along line 150C-150C and FIG. 15D being a cross-sectional view of the electrostatic quadrupole lens of FIG. 15A taken along line 150D-150D;

FIGS. 16A to 16C are illustrations of one type of a main lens, FIG. 16A being a cross-sectional view of the main lens, and FIGS. 16B and 16C being plan views of the facing portions of electrodes constituting the main lens, respectively;

FIG. 17 is a cross-sectional view of an example of a shadow mask type color cathode ray tube; and

FIG. 18 is a schematic cross-sectional view of an example of a prior art electron gun used in a color cathode ray tube.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

[0028] The detailed explanation will be given to the embodiments according to the present invention referring to the drawings.

5 [0029] FIG. 1 is a schematic cross-sectional view of an electron gun viewed in a direction perpendicular to the in-line direction of the three in-line electron beams for explaining a first embodiment of a color cathode ray tube according to the present invention. The same reference numerals as utilized in FIG. 18 designate corresponding portions in FIG. 1.

10 [0030] In this embodiment, electron beam generating means comprises cathodes 1, a first electrode 2 serving as a control electrode and a second electrode 3 serving as an accelerating electrode, and electron beam focusing means comprises a first member 41 and a second member 42 of a third electrode 4, a fourth electrode 5, a first member 61 and a second member 62 of a fifth electrode 6, an anode 7 and a shield cup 8.

[0031] The second electrode 3 and the fourth electrode 5 are supplied with a fixed voltage E_{c2} of 400 to 1000 V, the first member 41 of the third electrode 4 and the first member 61 of the fifth electrode 6 are supplied with a first focus voltage of a fixed voltage V_{f1} .

[0032] The second member 42 of the third electrode 4 and the second member 62 of the fifth electrode 6 are supplied with a second focus voltage ($V_{f2} + dV_f$) of a fixed voltage V_{f2} superposed with a dynamic voltage dV_f varying with a deflection angle of the electron beams scanning the viewing screen.

20 [0033] An astigmatism-correcting electrostatic quadrupole lens is formed between the first member 61 and the second member 62 of the fifth electrode for elongating the cross section of the electron beams vertically increasingly with an increase in the dynamic voltage. This electrostatic quadrupole lens is comprised of four vertical plates 611 attached to the end of the first member 61 of the fifth electrode on the second member 62 side thereof and two horizontal plates 621 attached to the second member 62 of the fifth electrode on the first member 61 side thereof.

25 [0034] FIGS. 2A and 2B are plan views of the first member 41 and the second member 42 of the third electrode 3, respectively, FIG. 2A being an illustration of electron beam apertures 41a formed in a surface of the first member 41 on the second member 42 side thereof and FIG. 2B being an illustration of electron beam apertures 42a formed in a surface of the second member 42 on the first member 41 side thereof.

30 [0035] As shown in FIG. 2A, three horizontally elongated electron beam apertures 41a are formed in the surface of the first member 41 on the second member 42 side thereof, and as shown in FIG. 2B, three vertically elongated electron beam apertures 42a are formed in the surface of the second member 42 on the first member 41 side thereof.

[0036] With this structure of the electron beam apertures 41a and 42a, in the third electrode 3, an electron beam-shaping electrostatic quadrupole lens is formed between the first member 41 and the second member 42 of the third electrode 4 for elongating the cross section of the electron beams less vertically, that is, elongating the cross section of the electron beams more horizontally with an increase in the dynamic voltage.

35 [0037] FIG. 3A is a plan view of the second member 42 of the third electrode 4 taken at line IIIA-III A of FIG. 1, and FIG. 3B is a plan view of the fourth electrode 5 taken at line IIIB-IIIB of FIG. 1. As shown in FIG. 3A, the electron beam apertures 42b formed in the surface of the second member 42 on the fourth electrode 5 side thereof are circular and are larger than the electron beam apertures 42a formed in the surface of the second member 42 on the first member 41 side thereof such that edges of the electron beam apertures 42a are viewed through the electron beam apertures 42b. As shown in FIG. 3B, the electron beam apertures 5a in the fourth electrode 5 are circular. FIG. 4 is an enlarged view of a portion of the electron gun of FIG. 1.

40 [0038] It is obvious from FIG. 3A that electric fields generated by the fourth electrode 5 extend into the electron beam apertures 42a of the second member 42 on the first member 41 side thereof and form non-axially-symmetric lens, because the electron beam apertures 42b in the surface of the second member 42 on the fourth electrode 5 side thereof are larger than the electron beam apertures 42a in the surface of the second member 42 on the first member 41 side thereof.

45 [0039] The electron beam astigmatism was evaluated in terms of the difference between the optimum horizontal focus voltage and the optimum vertical focus voltage applied to the second member 42 of the third electrode 4. FIG. 5 shows the relationship between the electron beam astigmatism and the ratio L/D where D is a diameter of the electron beam aperture 42b in the surface of the second member 42 of the fourth electrode 4 on the fourth-electrode 5 side thereof and L is an axial distance measured from the surface of the second member 42 on the fourth-electrode 5 side thereof to the electron beam aperture in the surface of the second member 42 on the first-member 41 side thereof as indicated in FIG. 4.

50 [0040] When the electron beam astigmatism voltage is zero, no electrostatic quadrupole lens is present, and consequently it is obvious from FIG. 5 that, when the relationship of $L/D < 1$ is satisfied, an electrostatic quadrupole lens is formed between the fourth electrode 5 and the vertically elongated apertures 42a in the surface of the second member 42 of the third member 4 on the first member 41 side thereof.

[0041] The voltage ($V_{f2} + dV_f$) applied to the second member 42 of the third electrode and the voltage E_{c2} applied

to the fourth electrode 5 have the relationship $(Vf2 + dVf) > Ec2$ at all times, and consequently an electrostatic quadrupole lens is formed between the second member 42 of the third electrode and the fourth electrode 5 such that a diverging lens is formed within the second member 42 by the vertically elongated apertures 42a in the surface of the second member 42 on the first member 41 side and the electron beams experience diffusing forces stronger in the horizontal direction.

[0042] Further, the electron beams experience diffusing forces increasingly stronger in the horizontal direction as the dynamic voltage dVf is increased and their cross sections are more elongated horizontally, because the potential difference between the second member 420 of the third electrode and the fourth electrode 5 increases as the dynamic voltage dVf is increased.

[0043] The electron lens formed between the second member 42 of the third electrode and the fourth electrode 5 elongates the cross section of the electron beams increasingly in the horizontal direction as the dynamic voltage dVf is increased like the electrostatic quadrupole lens formed between the first member 41 and the second member 42 of the third electrode, and this additional horizontal elongation of the cross section of the electron beams increases the amount of the beam shaping and provides a sufficient amount of shaping of the electron beams. Therefore the present embodiment provides good and uniform focus over the entire viewing screen.

[0044] As a modification, the electron beam apertures in the surface of the second member 42 of the third electrode 4 on the first member 41 side thereof may be made in the form of vertically elongated keyholes as shown in FIG. 6A, but the electron beam apertures in the fourth electrode is circular. FIG. 6B is a plan view of the modification of the second member 42 taken at line IIIA-III A of FIG. 1. In this modification also, the electron lens formed between the second member 42 of the third electrode and the fourth electrode 5 elongates the cross section of the electron beams increasingly in the horizontal direction as the dynamic voltage dVf is increased and this additional horizontal elongation of the cross section of the electron beams increases the amount of the beam shaping and provides a sufficient amount of shaping of the electron beams. Therefore this modification provides good and uniform focus over the entire viewing screen.

[0045] FIG. 7 is a schematic cross-sectional view of an electron gun viewed in a direction perpendicular to the in-line direction of the three in-line electron beams for explaining a second embodiment of a color cathode ray tube according to the present invention. The same reference numerals as utilized in FIG. 1 designate corresponding portions in FIG. 7.

[0046] The electron gun of this embodiment is similar to that of the previous embodiment, except that the second member 420 of the third electrode 4 is of a plate electrode type in this embodiment.

[0047] FIG. 8A is a plan view of the second member 420 of the third electrode 4 taken at line VIIIA-VIIIA of FIG. 7, and FIG. 8B is a plan view of the fourth electrode 5 taken at line VIII B-VIII B of FIG. 1. The electron beam apertures 420a in the second member 420 of the third electrode 4 are vertically elongated and the apertures 5a in the fourth electrode 5 is circular.

[0048] The voltage $(Vf2 + dVf)$ applied to the second member 420 of the third electrode and the voltage $Ec2$ applied to the fourth electrode 5 have the relationship $(Vf2 + dVf) > Ec2$ at all times, and consequently an electrostatic quadrupole lens is formed between the second member 420 of the third electrode and the fourth electrode 5 such that the electron beams experience diffusing forces caused by the vertically elongated apertures 420a in the second member 420 and stronger in the horizontal direction.

[0049] Further, the electron beams experience diffusing forces increasingly stronger in the horizontal direction as the dynamic voltage dVf is increased and their cross sections are more elongated horizontally, because the potential difference between the second member 420 of the third electrode and the fourth electrode 5 increases as the dynamic voltage dVf is increased.

[0050] The electron lens formed between the second member 420 of the third electrode and the fourth electrode 5 elongates the cross section of the electron beams increasingly in the horizontal direction as the dynamic voltage dVf is increased like the electrostatic quadrupole lens formed between the first member 41 and the second member 420 of the third electrode, and this additional horizontal elongation of the cross section of the electron beams increases the amount of the beam shaping and provides a sufficient amount of shaping of the electron beams. Therefore the present embodiment provides good and uniform focus over the entire viewing screen.

[0051] As a modification of the electron gun of FIG. 7 in the second embodiment, the electron beam apertures 421a in the second member 420 of the third electrode 4 may be made in the form of vertically elongated keyholes as shown in FIG. 8C. FIG. 8C is a plan view of the modification of the second member 420 taken at line VIIIA-VIIIA of FIG. 7. In this modification also, the electron lens formed between the second member 420 of the third electrode and the fourth electrode 5 elongates the cross section of the electron beams increasingly in the horizontal direction as the dynamic voltage dVf is increased and this additional horizontal elongation of the cross section of the electron beams increases the amount of the beam shaping and provides a sufficient amount of shaping of the electron beams. Therefore this modification also provides good and uniform focus over the entire viewing screen.

[0052] FIG. 9 is a schematic cross-sectional view of an electron gun viewed in a direction perpendicular to the in-

line direction of the three in-line electron beams for explaining a third embodiment of a color cathode ray tube according to the present invention. The same reference numerals as utilized in FIG. 1 designate corresponding portions in FIG. 9.

[0053] The present embodiment differs from the first and second embodiments in that the fifth electrode 6 are divided into a first member 61, a second member 62 and a third member 64 and in that the first member 61 and the second member 62 are supplied with a second focus voltage ($Vf2 + dVf$) of a fixed voltage $Vf2$ superposed with a dynamic voltage dVf and the third member 64 is supplied with a fixed focus voltage $Vf1$.

[0054] An electrostatic quadrupole lens is formed by two horizontal plates 611 attached to the end of the first member 61 on the third member 64 side thereof and four vertical plates 641 attached to the end of the third member 64 on the first member 61 side thereof. The electron beam apertures 41a and 42a in the third electrode 4 are similar to those in the third electrode 4 in FIGS. 2A and 2B, respectively, and a cross-sectional view of the third electrode 4 taken at line III-III of FIG. 9 is similar to that of FIG. 3A.

[0055] The second electrode 3 and the fourth electrode 5 are supplied with a fixed voltage $Ec2$ of about 400 V to about 1000 V, the first member 41 of the third electrode and the third member 64 of the fifth electrode are supplied with a first focus voltage $Vf1$, and the second member 42 of the third electrode and the first member 61 and the second member 62 of the fifth electrode are supplied with a second focus voltage ($Vf2 + dVf$) of a fixed voltage $Vf2$ superposed with a dynamic voltage dVf varying with deflection angle of the electron beams scanning the viewing screen 4.

[0056] An astigmatism-correcting electrostatic quadrupole lens is formed between the first member 61 and the third member 64 of the fifth electrode for increasingly elongating the cross section of the electron beams vertically as the dynamic voltage dVf increases, and an electron lens is formed between the third member 64 and the second member 62 of the fifth electrode for decreasing the strength of focusing the electron beams in both the horizontal and vertical directions as the dynamic voltage dVf increases.

[0057] As shown in FIG. 2A, three horizontally elongated electron beam apertures 41a are formed in the surface of the first member 41 of the third electrode 4 on the second member 42 side thereof, and as shown in FIG. 2B, three vertically elongated electron beam apertures 42a are formed in the surface of the second member 42 of the third electrode 4 on the first member 41 side thereof. An electron beam-shaping electrostatic quadrupole lens is formed between the first member 41 and the second member 42 of the third electrode for increasingly elongating the cross section of the electron beams with an increase in the dynamic voltage dVf .

[0058] With this structure of the electron gun, the electron lens formed between the third member 64 and the second member 62 of the fifth electrode focuses the electron beams in both the horizontal and vertical directions. As the dynamic voltage dVf increases, that is, as the deflection of the electron beams increases, the focusing strength of the electron lens formed between the third and second members 64, 62 of the fifth electrode weakens due to the decrease in the potential difference between the third member 64 and the second member 62, and consequently the curvature of the image field is corrected.

[0059] In this embodiment, in addition to an electron lens formed between the fifth electrode 6 and the anode 7 for correcting the curvature of the image field as in the first and second embodiments, another electron lens is formed between the third member 64 and the second member 62 of the fifth electrode for correcting the curvature of the image field, and consequently the lower dynamic voltage can provide good focus over the entire viewing screen than prior art cathode ray tubes.

[0060] In this embodiment also, the electron lens formed between the second member 42 of the third electrode and the fourth electrode 5 serves to increasingly elongate the cross section of the electron beams horizontally with the increase in the dynamic voltage like the electrostatic quadrupole lens formed between the first member 41 and the second member 42 of the third electrode as in the first embodiment, such that the beam-shaping amount of horizontal elongation of the cross section of the electron beams is increased to provide a sufficient amount of the beam shaping and good and uniform focus is obtained over the entire viewing screen.

[0061] It is needless to say that this embodiment can be combined with the second embodiment.

[0062] FIG. 10 is an illustration of waveforms of the focus voltages to be used in the first to third embodiments. The fixed DC voltage $Vf1$ is selected higher than the fixed DC voltage $Vf2$ to satisfy the following relationship:

$$\text{the first focus voltage } Vf1 > \text{the second focus voltage } (Vf2 + dVf).$$

[0063] The following explains the shapes of electron beam apertures in the respective electrodes briefly.

[0064] The electron beam apertures in the first electrode 2 are circles, squares, vertically or horizontally elongated ovals or ellipses, or vertically or horizontally elongated rectangles.

[0065] The electron beam apertures in the second electrode 3 are circles, squares, or rectangles. Sometimes each aperture in the second electrode is superposed with a rectangular slit in a surface of the second electrode on a first- or third-electrode side thereof.

[0066] The electron beam apertures in a surface of the first member 41 of the third electrode 4 on a second-electrode 3 side are circles, and those in a surface of the first member 41 on a second-member 42 side are horizontally

elongated rectangles or horizontally elongated keyholes.

[0067] The electron beam apertures in the second member 42 of the third electrode 4 have already been explained above.

[0068] The electron beam apertures in the fourth electrode 5 are circles.

5 [0069] The electron beam apertures in a surface of the fifth electrode 6 on a fourth-electrode 5 side are circles.

[0070] The following are some examples of astigmatism-correcting electrostatic quadrupole lenses formed within the fifth electrode 6:

10 (1) As shown in FIGS. 11A to 11C and explained in connection with the first to third embodiments, an quadrupole lens is formed by four vertical plates 101 attached to one electrode 300 of a pair of opposing electrodes 200, 300 and two horizontal plates 102 attached to the other 200 of the opposing electrodes 200, 300 to sandwich the four vertical plates 101. FIG. 11A is a cross-sectional view taken at line 110A-110A in FIG. 11B, FIG. 11B is a cross-sectional view taken at line 110B-110B in FIG. 11A, and FIG. 11C is a cross-sectional view taken at line 110C-110C in FIG. 11A. Reference numerals 200a and 300a denote circular apertures.

15 (2) As shown in FIGS. 12A to 12C, an quadrupole lens is formed by three vertically elongated rectangles 500a formed in one electrode 500 of a pair of opposing electrodes 400, 500 and three horizontally elongated rectangles 400a formed in the other 400 of the opposing electrodes 400, 500. FIG. 12A is a plan view taken at line 120A-120A in FIG. 12B, FIG. 12B is a cross-sectional view taken at line 120B-120B in FIG. 12A, and FIG. 12C is a plan view taken at line 120C-120C in FIG. 12B.

20 (3) As shown in FIGS. 13A to 13C, an quadrupole lens is formed by three vertically elongated keyholes 700a formed in one electrode 700 of a pair of opposing electrodes 600, 700 and three horizontally elongated keyholes 600a formed in the other 600 of the opposing electrodes 600, 700. FIG. 13A is a plan view taken at line 130A-130A in FIG. 13B, FIG. 13B is a cross-sectional view taken at line 130B-130B in FIG. 13A, and FIG. 13C is a plan view taken at line 130C-130C in FIG. 13B.

25 (4) As shown in FIGS. 14A to 14C, an quadrupole lens is formed by three circular apertures 901a formed in a plate electrode 901 disposed displaced from an end of one electrode 900 of a pair of opposing electrodes 800, 900 inwardly into the electrode 900 and a pair of horizontal plates 801 sandwiching three electron beam paths, having their edges closely spaced from the three circular apertures 901a and attached to the other 800 of the opposing electrodes 800, 900. FIG. 14A is a cross-sectional view taken at line 140A-140A in FIG. 14B, FIG. 14B is a cross-sectional view taken at line 140B-140B in FIG. 14A, and FIG. 14C is a cross-sectional view taken at line 140C-140C in FIG. 14A. Reference numeral 800a denote circular apertures and 900a is a large-diameter single-opening.

30 (5) As shown in FIGS. 15A to 15D, an quadrupole lens is formed by three vertically elongated rectangular apertures 1100a formed in an end face of one electrode 1100 of a pair of opposing electrodes 1000, 1100 and three pairs of horizontal plates 1001 each pair sandwiching a respective one of three electron beam paths, each pair extending into a respective one of the three rectangular apertures 1100a and attached to the other 1000 of the opposing electrodes 1000, 1100. FIG. 15A is a cross-sectional view taken at line 150A-150A in FIG. 15C, FIG. 15B is a cross-sectional view taken at line 150B-150B in FIG. 15A, FIG. 15C is a cross-sectional view taken at line 150C-150C in FIG. 15A and FIG. 15D is a cross-sectional view taken at line 150D-150D in FIG. 15A. Reference numeral 1100a denote circular apertures.

40 [0071] The second member 62 of the fifth electrode 6 and the anode 7 form a main lens, and they have single openings 62a, 7a in their respective opposing end faces, respectively, as shown in FIG. 16A. The second member 62 and the anode 7, respectively, may be provided with a plate electrode 63 (71) having three circular apertures 63a (71a) as shown in FIG. 16B, a plate electrode 63 (71) having three elliptical apertures 63a (71a) as shown in FIG. 16C or a plate electrode 63 (71) having three polygonal apertures.

45 [0072] As described above, according to the present invention, an electron beam-shaping electrostatic quadrupole lens is formed between the first member 41 and the second member 42 of the third electrode, and an electron lens is formed between the electron beam apertures 42a in the end face of the second member 42 on the first member 41 side thereof and the fourth electrode 5 adjacent to the second member 42 for diffusing the electron beams increasingly in the horizontal direction and for focusing the electron beams increasingly in the vertical direction with the increase in the difference between the voltage applied to the fourth electrode 5 and the second focus voltage applied to the second member 42. With this structure, the shaping strength of elongating the cross section of the electron beams horizontally can be increased to provide a sufficient amount of beam shaping such that a color cathode ray tube provides good and uniform focus over the entire viewing screen.

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Claims

1. A color cathode ray tube comprising an evacuated envelope comprising a panel portion (1), a neck portion (2) and

a funnel portion (3) for connecting said panel portion and said neck portion, a phosphor screen (4) formed on an inner surface of said panel portion, an in-line type electron gun (9) housed in said neck portion, and an electron beam deflection yoke (10) mounted around said neck portion, said in-line type electron gun (9) comprising

an electron beam generating section having a plurality of in-line cathodes (1), a first electrode (2) serving as an electron beam control electrode and a second electrode (3) serving as an accelerating electrode arranged in the order named for projecting a plurality of electron beams arranged approximately in parallel with each other in a horizontal plane toward said phosphor screen,

an electron beam focusing section comprising a third electrode (4, 41, 42), a fourth electrode (5), a fifth electrode (6, 61-64) and an anode (7) arranged in the order named for focusing said plurality of electron beams on said phosphor screen,

said third electrode comprising a first group of members (41) and a second group of members (42) of said third electrode,

said fifth electrode comprising a first group (61) of members and a second group (62) of members of said fifth electrode,

said first group (41) of members of said third electrode and said first group (61) of members of said fifth electrode being supplied with a first focus voltage $Vf1$ of a fixed value, and

said second group of members (42) of said third electrode and said second group of members of said fifth electrode (62) being supplied with a second focus voltage $Vf2+dVf$ comprised of a fixed voltage $Vf2$ and a dynamic voltage dVf varying with deflection of said plurality of electron beams, wherein

at least one first-type electrostatic quadrupole lens is formed between said first and second groups of members of said fifth electrode (6) for increasingly focusing said plurality of electron beams in one of horizontal and vertical directions and for increasingly diffusing said plurality of electron beams in another of the horizontal and vertical directions with an increase in a focus voltage difference between said first focus voltage and said second focus voltage,

at least one second-type electrostatic quadrupole lens is formed between said first and second groups of members of said third electrode for increasingly focusing said plurality of electron beams with the increase in the focus voltage difference in a direction perpendicular to said one of the horizontal and vertical directions in which one disposed nearest said anode, of said at least one first-type electrostatic quadrupole lens increasingly focuses said plurality of electron beams with the increase in the focus voltage difference, and for increasingly diffusing said plurality of electron beams with the increase in the focus voltage difference in a direction perpendicular to said another of the horizontal and vertical directions in which said one disposed nearest said anode, of said at least one first-type electrostatic quadrupole lens increasingly diffuses said plurality of electron beams with the increase in the focus voltage difference, and

an electron lens is formed between said fourth electrode (5) and a first aperture (42b) formed in a first surface of one member of said second group (42) of said third electrode (4) adjacent to said fourth electrode (5) and forming said at least one second-type electrostatic quadrupole lens in combination with one member of said first group of said third electrode, said first surface of said one member of said second group of said third electrode being on a side of said one member of said second group of said third electrode opposite from said fourth electrode,

said electron lens being configured so as to increasingly diffuse said plurality of electron beams in the horizontal direction with an increase in a voltage difference between said second focus voltage and a voltage applied to said fourth electrode and to increasingly focus said plurality of electron beams in the vertical direction with the increase in the voltage difference between said second focus voltage and the voltage applied to said fourth electrode.

2. A color cathode ray tube comprising an evacuated envelope comprising a panel portion (1), a neck portion (2) and a funnel portion (3) for connecting said panel portion and said neck portion, a phosphor screen (4) formed on an inner surface of said panel portion, an in-line type electron gun (9) housed in said neck portion, and an electron beam deflection yoke (10) mounted around said neck portion, said in-line type electron gun (9) comprising

an electron beam generating section having three in-line cathodes (1), an electron beam control electrode (2) and an accelerating electrode (3) arranged in the order named for projecting three electron beams arranged approximately in parallel with each other in a horizontal plane toward said phosphor screen,

an electron beam focusing section comprising a third electrode (4, 41, 42), a fourth electrode (5), a fifth electrode (6) and an anode (7) arranged in the order named for focusing the three electron beams on said phos-

phor screen,

said third electrode comprising a first group of members (41) and a second group of members (42) of said third electrode,

said fifth electrode comprising a first group of members (61) and a second group of members (62) of said fifth electrode,

one member of said second group of members of said fifth electrode being disposed adjacently to said anode, said first group of members of said third electrode and said first group of members of said fifth electrode being supplied with a first focus voltage $Vf1$ of a fixed value, and

said second group of members of said third electrode and said second group of members of said fifth electrode being supplied with a second focus voltage $Vf2+dVf$ comprised of a fixed voltage $Vf2$ and a dynamic voltage dVf varying with deflection of the three electron beams, wherein

at least one first-type electrostatic quadrupole lens is formed between said first and second groups of members of said fifth electrode for increasingly focusing the three electron beams in one of horizontal and vertical directions and for increasingly diffusing the three electron beams in another of the horizontal and vertical directions with an increase in a focus voltage difference between said first focus voltage and said second focus voltage,

at least one second-type electrostatic quadrupole lens is formed between said first and second groups of members of said third electrode for increasingly focusing the three electron beams with the increase in the focus voltage difference in a direction perpendicular to said one of the horizontal and vertical directions in which one disposed nearest said anode, of said at least one first-type electrostatic quadrupole lens increasingly focuses the three electron beams with the increase in the focus voltage difference, and for increasingly diffusing the three electron beams with the increase in the focus voltage difference in a direction perpendicular to said another of the horizontal and vertical directions in which said one disposed nearest said anode, of said at least one first-type electrostatic quadrupole lens increasingly diffuses the three electron beams with the increase in the focus voltage difference, and

an electron lens is formed between said fourth electrode and an aperture formed in one member of said second group of said third electrode adjacent to said fourth electrode and forming said at least one second-type electrostatic quadrupole lens in combination with one member of said first group of said third electrode, said one member of said second group of said third electrode being a plate-like electrode and said aperture being a vertically elongated aperture,

said electron lens being configured so as to increasingly diffuse the three electron beams in the horizontal direction with an increase in a voltage difference between said second focus voltage and a voltage applied to said fourth electrode and to increasingly focus the three electron beams in the vertical direction with the increase in the voltage difference between said second focus voltage and the voltage applied to said fourth electrode.

3. A color cathode ray tube according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said one member of said second group of said third electrode adjacent to said fourth electrode satisfies the following relationship:

$$L/D < 1$$

where L is an axial distance between said first aperture and a second surface of said one member of said second group of said third electrode on a fourth electrode side thereof, and D is a diameter of a second aperture formed in said second surface.

4. A color cathode ray tube according to claim 1, 2 or 3, further comprising at least one electron lens formed between said first and second groups of members of said fifth electrode for focusing said plurality of electron beams in both the horizontal and vertical directions increasingly with the increase in the focus voltage difference.
5. A color cathode ray tube according to one of the claims 1 to 4, wherein said one disposed nearest said anode, of said at least one first-type electrostatic quadrupole lens increasingly focuses said plurality of electron beams in the vertical direction and increasingly diffuses said plurality of electron beams in the horizontal direction with the increase in the focus voltage difference.
6. A color cathode ray tube according to one of the claims 1 to 5, wherein the focus voltage difference between said first focus voltage and said second focus voltage decreases with increasing deflection of said plurality of electron beams.
7. A color cathode ray tube according to claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein the second focus voltage is higher than the voltage

applied to said fourth electrode.

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FIG. 1

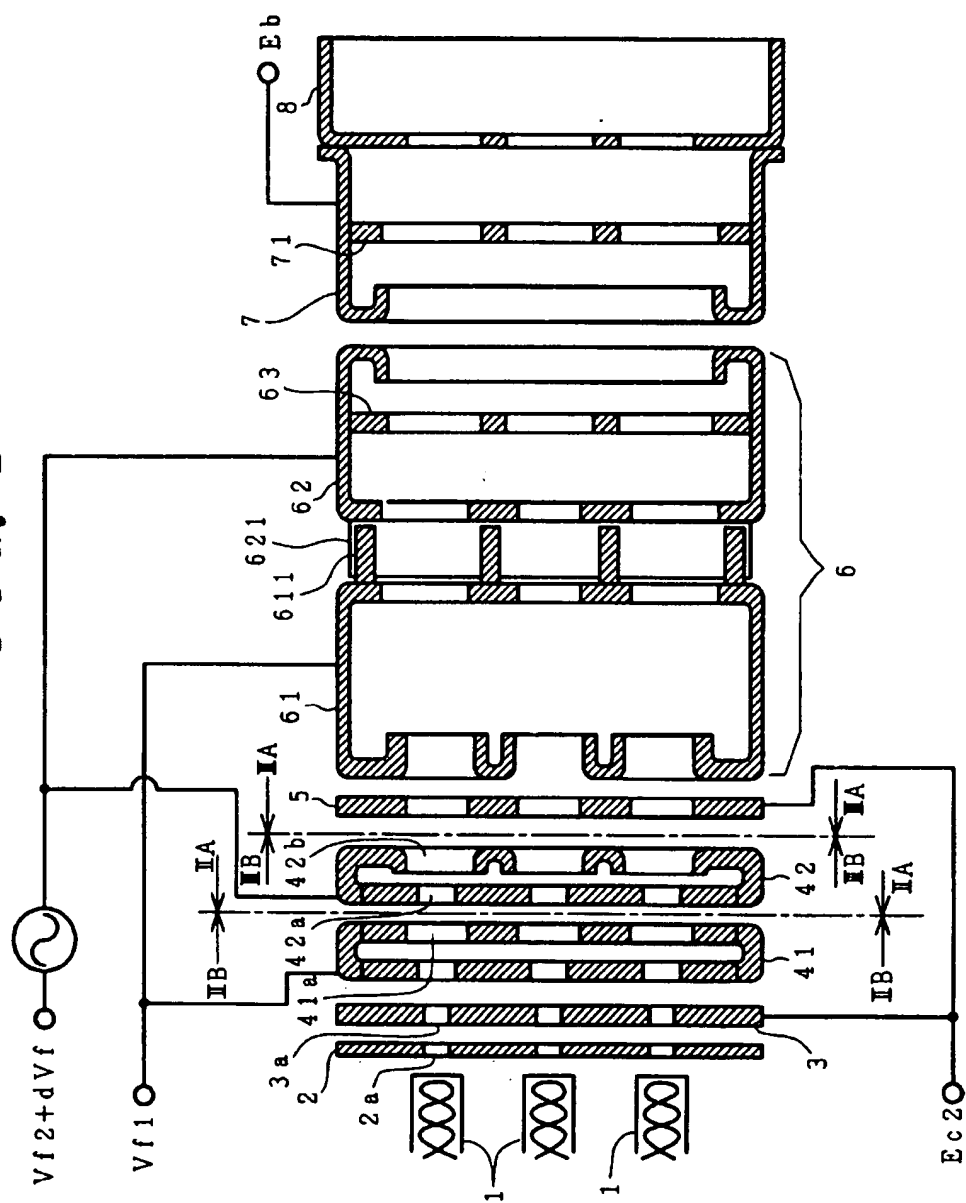


FIG. 2A

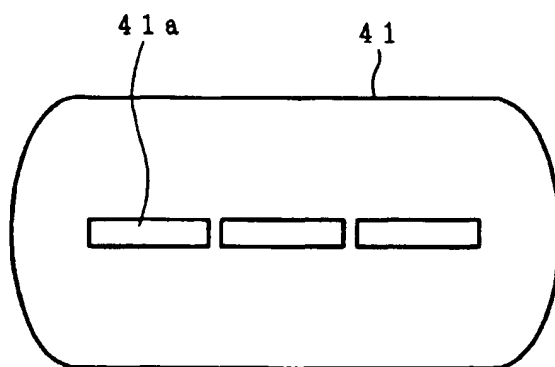


FIG. 2B

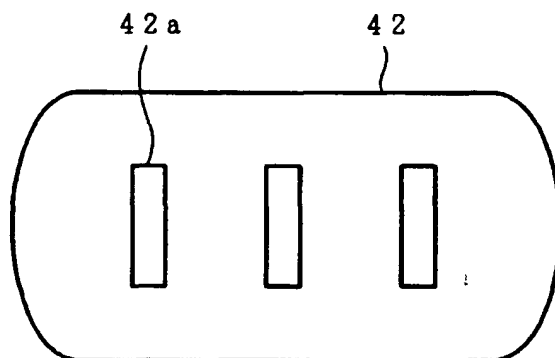


FIG. 3A

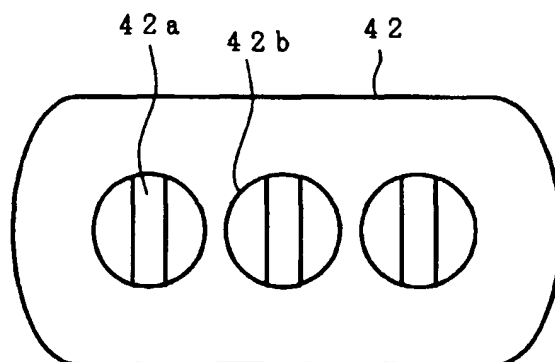


FIG. 3B

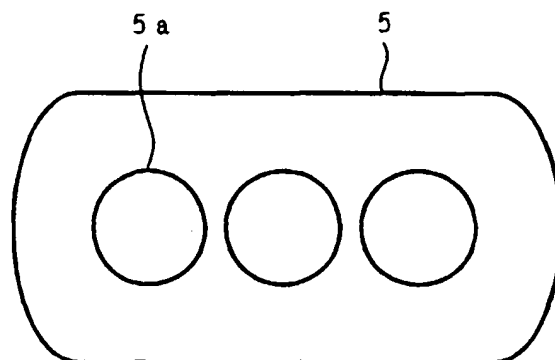


FIG. 4

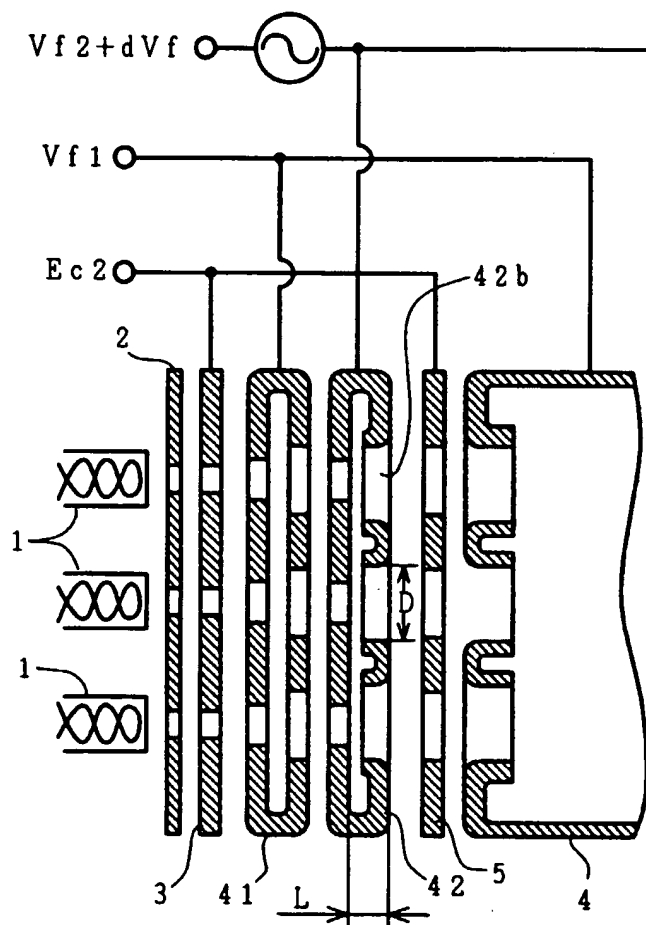


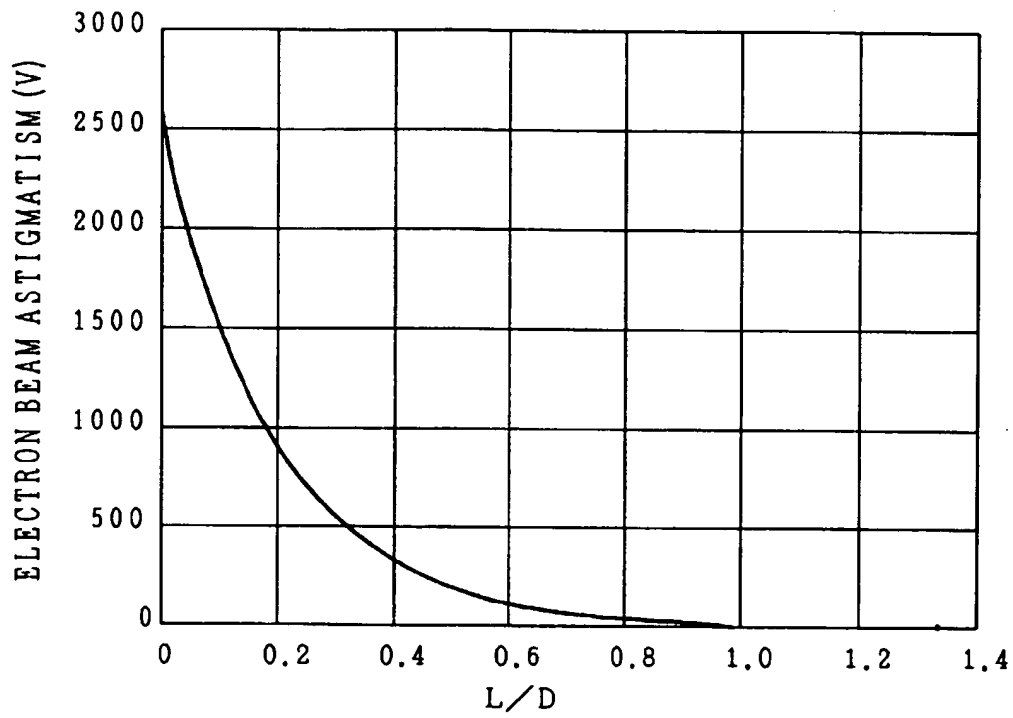
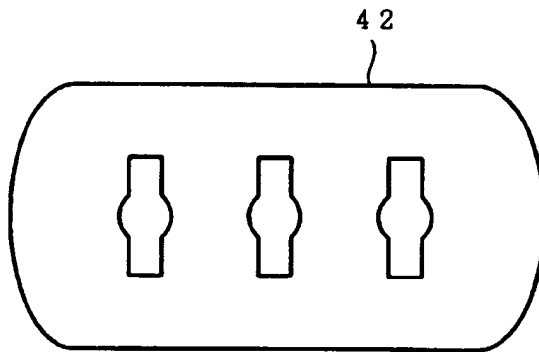
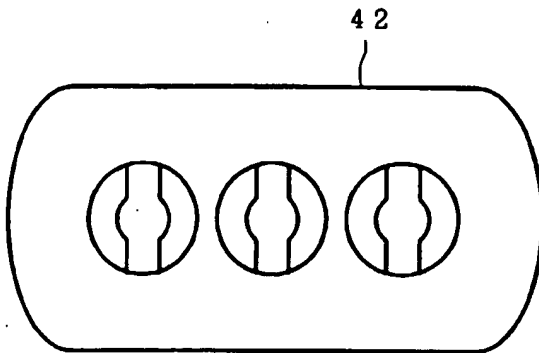
FIG. 5*FIG. 6A**FIG. 6B*

FIG. 7

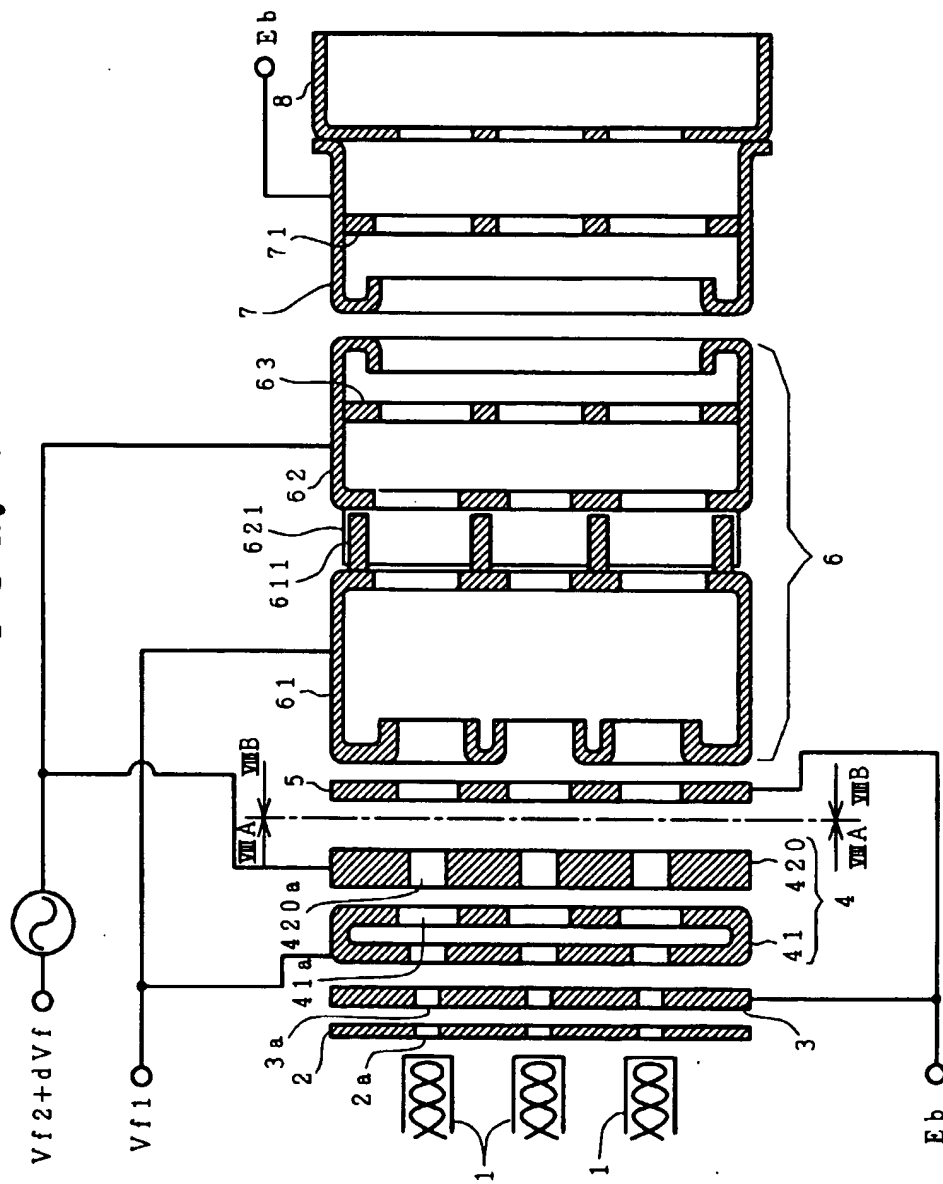


FIG. 8A

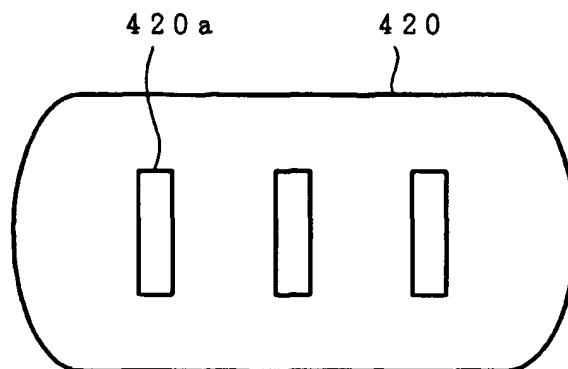


FIG. 8B

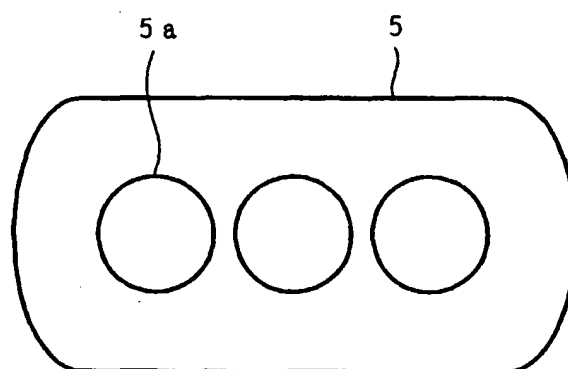


FIG. 8C

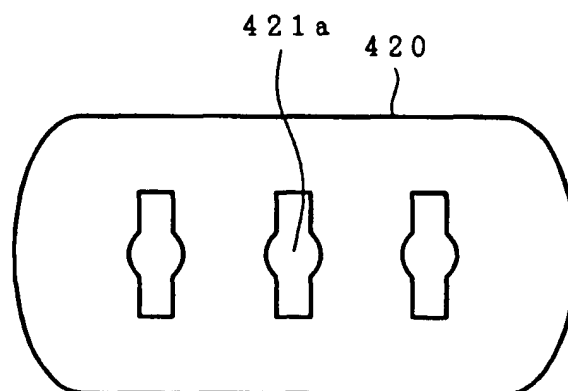


FIG. 9

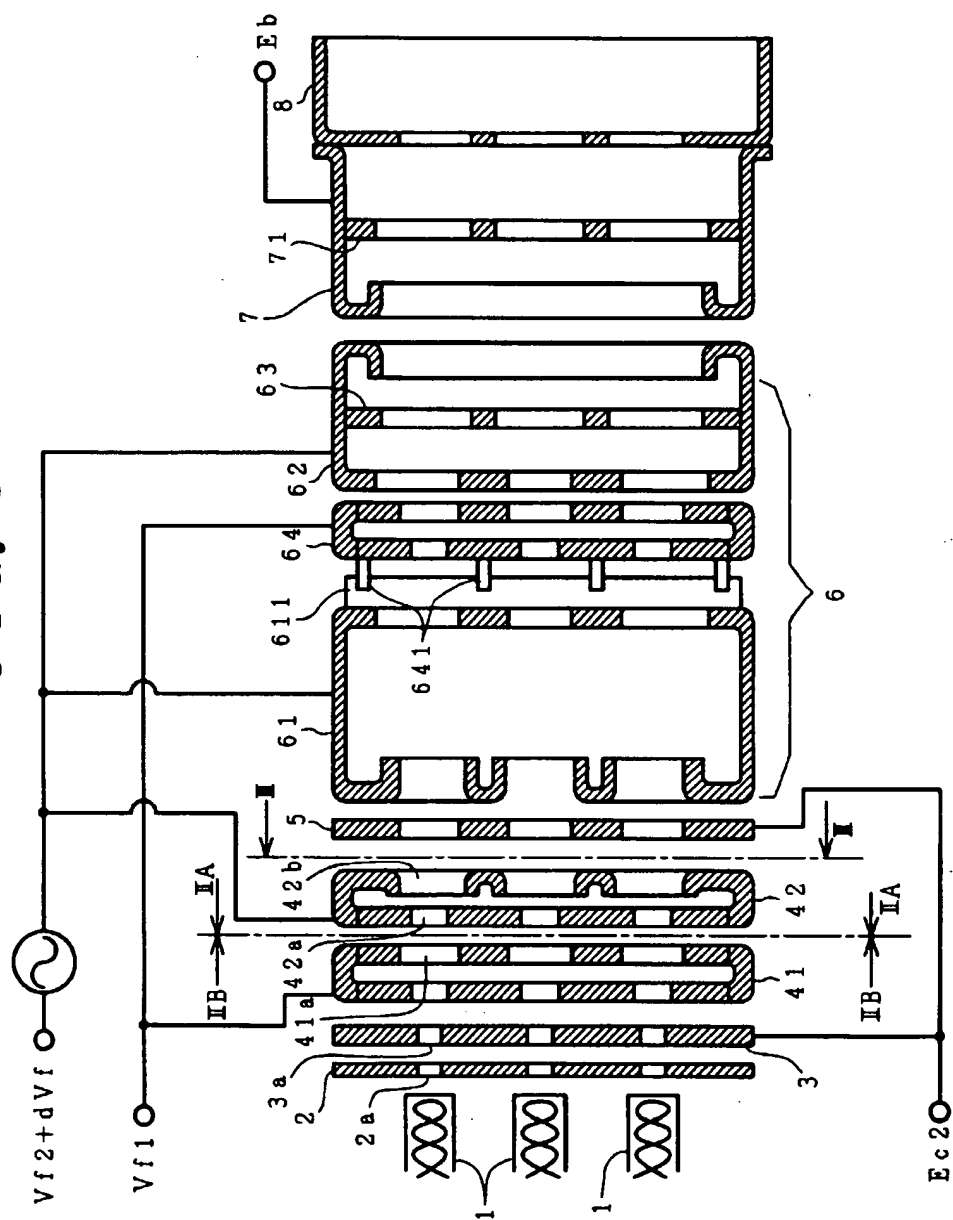


FIG. 10

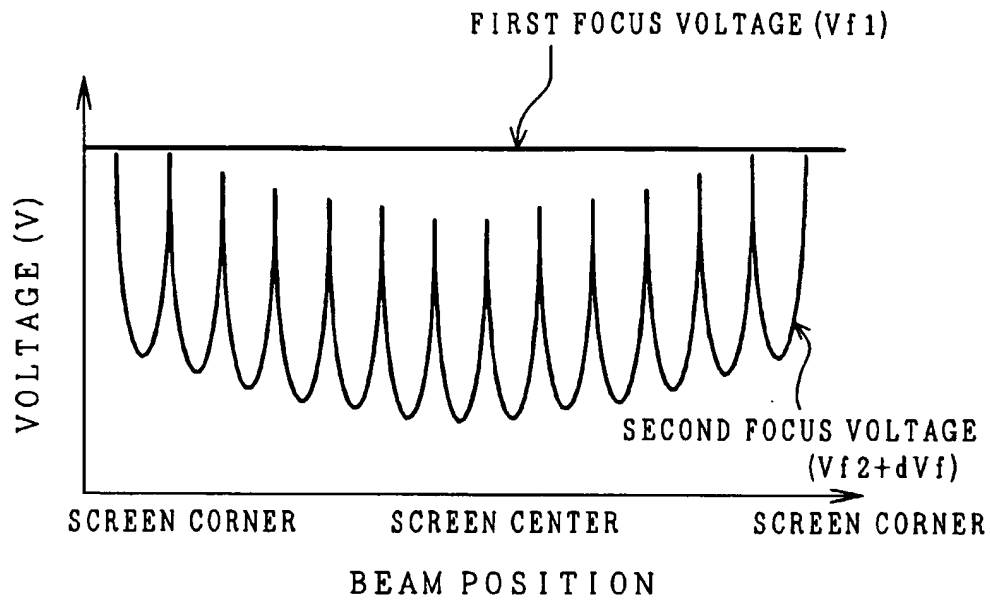


FIG. 11A

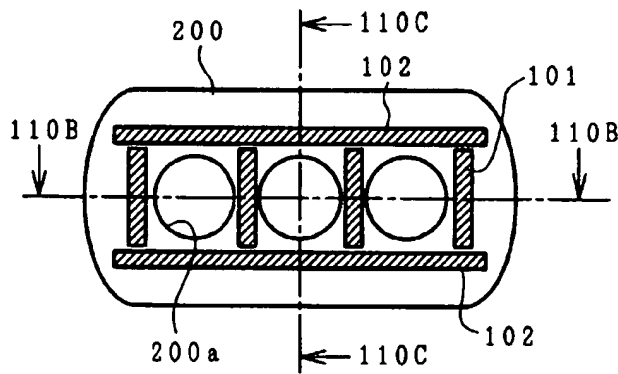


FIG. 11C

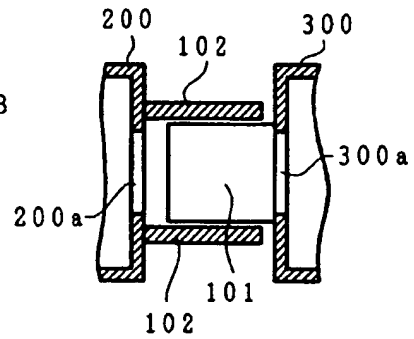


FIG. 11B

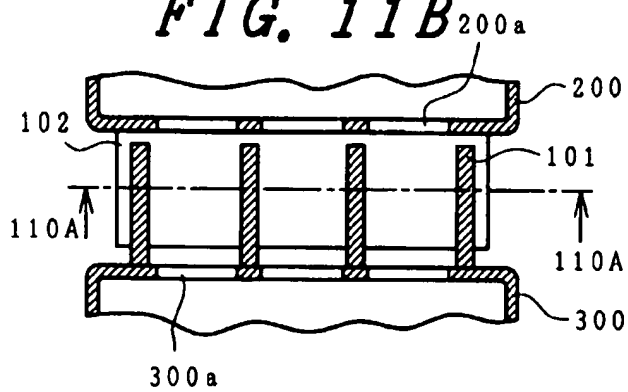


FIG. 12A

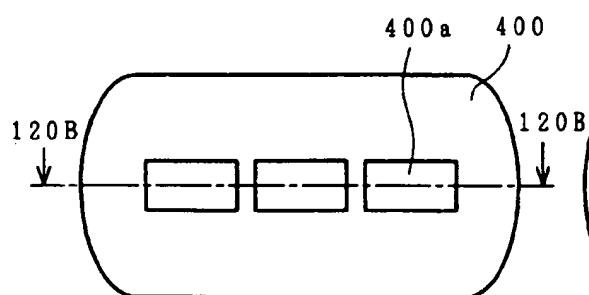


FIG. 12C

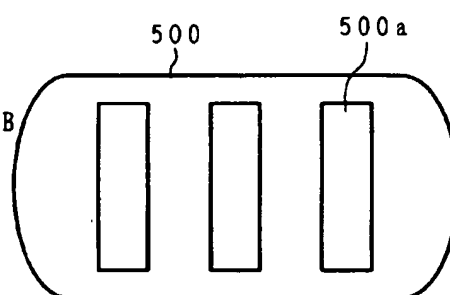


FIG. 12B

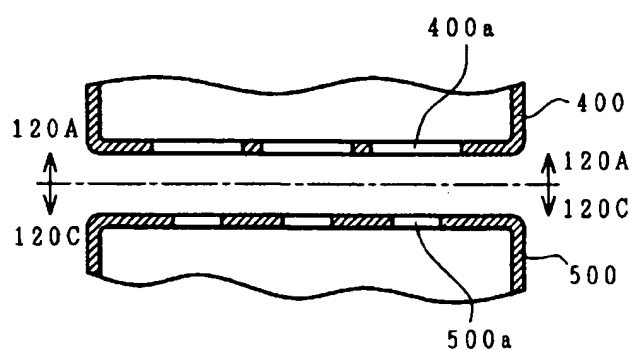


FIG. 13A

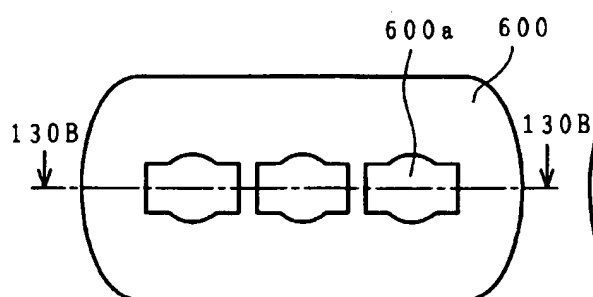


FIG. 13C

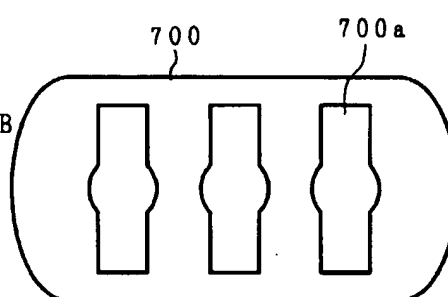


FIG. 13B

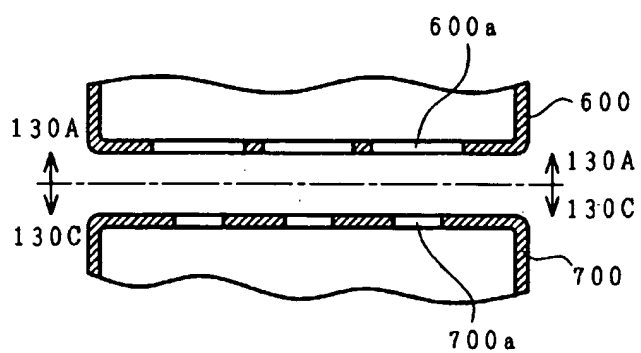


FIG. 14A

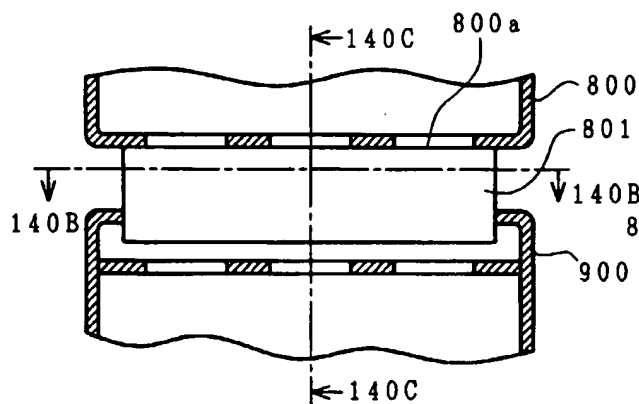


FIG. 14C

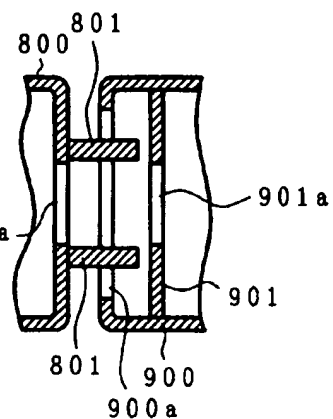


FIG. 14B

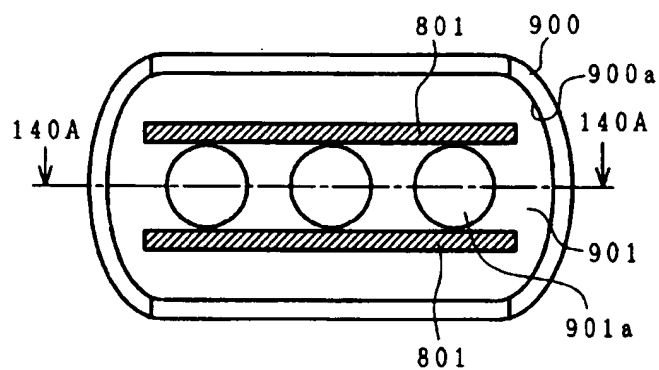


FIG. 15A

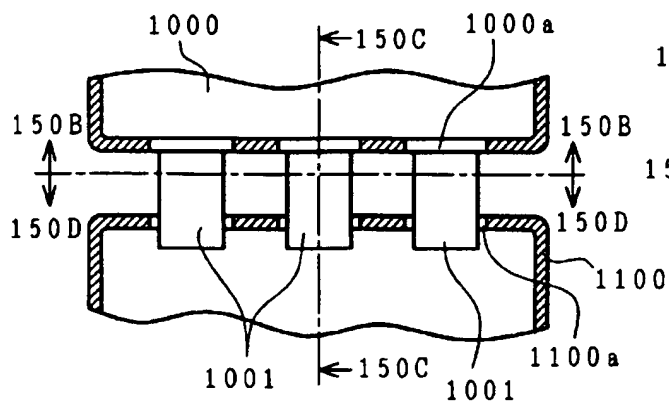


FIG. 15C

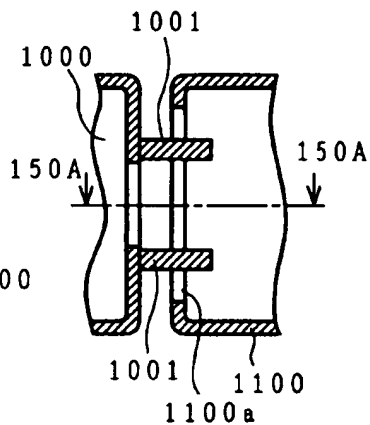


FIG. 15B

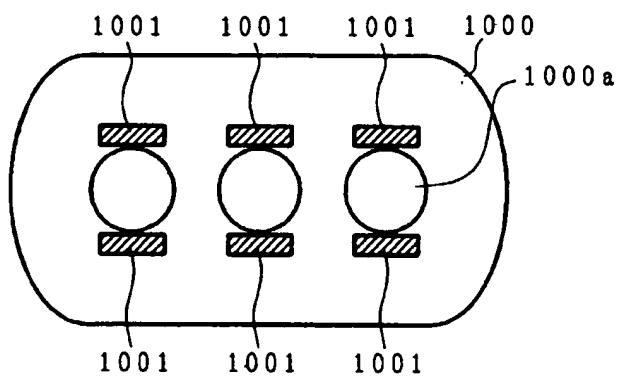


FIG. 15D

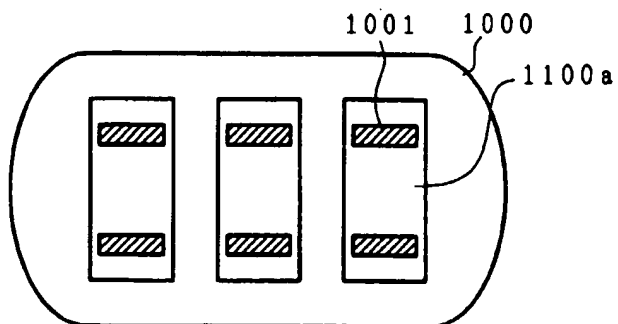


FIG. 16A

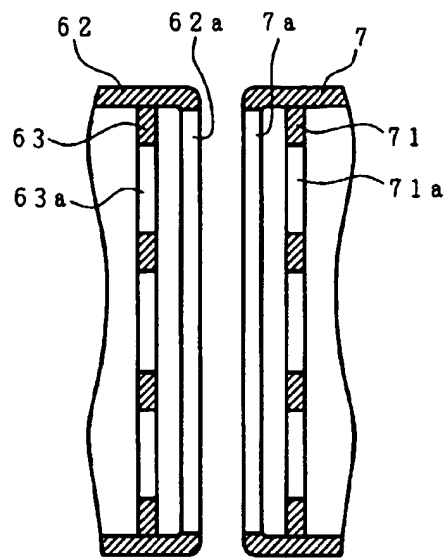


FIG. 16B

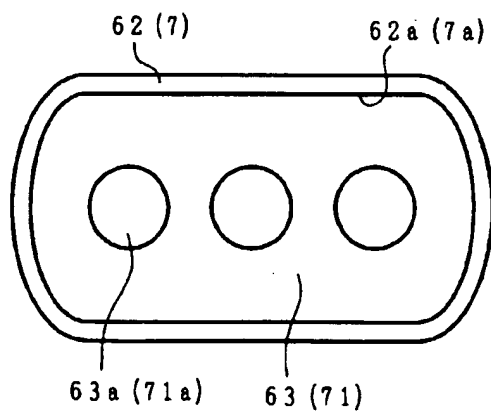


FIG. 16C

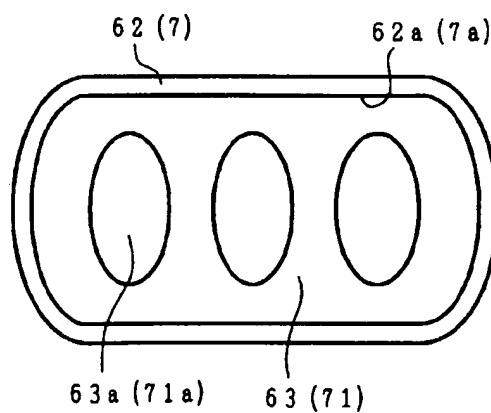


FIG. 17
(PRIOR ART)

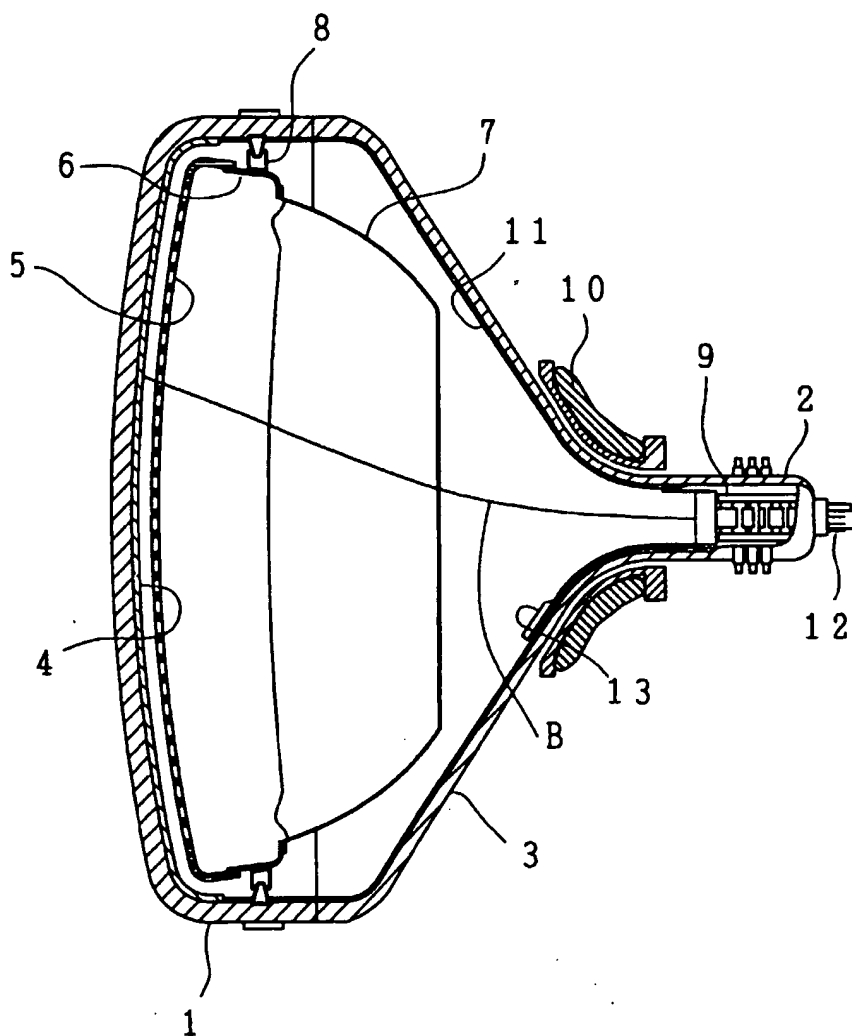
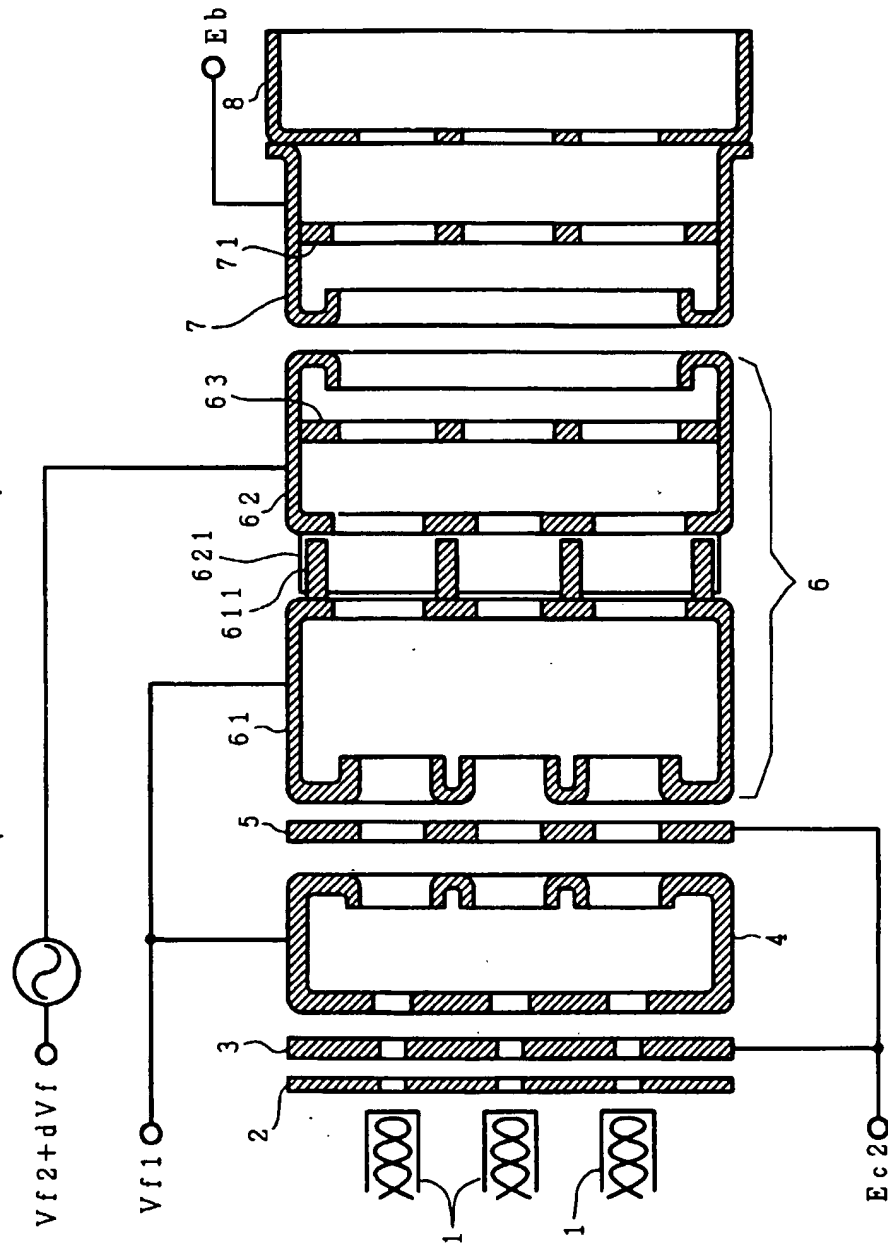


FIG. 18
(PRIOR ART)





European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 99 12 5535

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. CL.7)
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 1998, no. 09, 31 July 1998 (1998-07-31) & JP 10 092333 A (TOSHIBA CORP), 10 April 1998 (1998-04-10) * abstract *	1,2	H01J29/50
A	EP 0 652 583 A (HITACHI LTD) 10 May 1995 (1995-05-10) * figure 4 *	1,2	
A	EP 0 805 473 A (HITACHI LTD) 5 November 1997 (1997-11-05) * figure 4 *	1,2	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. CL.7)
			H01J
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 28 March 2000	Examiner Colvin, G
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons</p> <p>& : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 99 12 5535

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